result of informed and institutionalized decision in best public interest making pragmatic adjustments warranted by ground realities in relating to the Telecom Industry. The uniform application of NTP-99 all over the country would ensure growth of telecom sector by bringing in multipoly, better accessability and improved/cost effective service to customers and is important for achieving the objectives of New Telecom Policy.

Development of Karwar Port

*65. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether as part of their larger scheme of privatising all small ports in the State, the Government of Karnataka has proposed for developing the Karwar Port through addition of two more berths in collaboration with the New Mangalore Port Trust; and

(b) if so, the details of the proposal and the views of Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI RAJNATH SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir. The Karnataka Government have proposed to develop the Minor port of Karwar through a Joint Venture with the Major Port of New Mangalore.

(b) The project estimated at Rs. 85.00 crores, *inter-alia*, involves extension of the existing cargo berth and construction of Nothern return berth at Karwar Port. The Major Port Trusts (Amendment) Bill, 1998, which seeks to enable the Major Ports to enter into Joint Venture Agreements is yet to be passed by both the Houses of Parliament. The proposal is not being processed pending amendment to the Major Port Trusts Act, 1963.